

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/644,773

Examiner

Quoc D Tran

Applicant(s)

STEVENS ET AL.

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/21/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

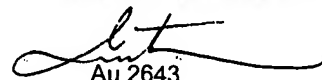
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

QUOC TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER


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DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-26 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant invention is drawn to a computer implemented system and method of allocating costs of wireless telephone usage. Billing and usage information is received from at least one wireless telephone service provider related to calls made and received by a plurality of wireless telephone service users. Each call is automatically categorized as a business call or a personal call based on at least one of a phone book, time of day, day, and preset flag associated with a given telephone number. A pre-defined categorization policy will apply for any call that cannot be categorized based on the automatic categorization. The categorized calls can be reviewed via a graphical user interface and modification of a categorization can be effected. A final categorization of the calls is ultimately approved, which then allows charges to be appropriately allocated to users.

Closest prior art of record, Yanor (5,842,174) disclosed a telephone billing analyzer that enable a user to manipulates call billing records to produce management reports. The billing analyzer receives billing records from service providers. Apply predefined criterions to the billing records to generate management report based on the selected criteria.

Prior art of record failed to teach or fairly suggest in combination the automated system and method for managing telephone accounts, comprising: means for receiving billing and usage information from at least one wireless telephone service provider related to a plurality of wireless telephone service users, the users being permitted to use the wireless telephone service for both

Art Unit: 2643

business and personal activities, the billing and usage information comprising billing and usage data for the business and personal activities; means for distinguishing between business and personal activities included in the billing and usage data, said means for distinguishing comprising a rules engine operable to identify, business activity and personal activity based on at least one of a preset phone book entry, time of day, day, and area code and country called associated with a given call instance, said means for distinguishing further designating each activity as one of a business activity and a personal activity; ***means for allowing the users and managers of the users to view the thus-designated business activities and personal activities on a display and for allowing the users and managers to modify and re-designate a given activity; means for associating a predetermined charge to each of the activities; and means for approving the activities and associated charges such that a total cost of business and personal activities is allocated according to a predetermined policy.***

Prior art of record further failed to teach or lack of evidence suggesting in combination the automated method of monitoring and managing wireless telephone call usage, comprising: defining a set of policies that cause a given telephone call to be categorized as a business call or a personal call, said policies being stored in a computer program operable to apply the policies upon request; receiving data indicative of wireless telephone usage, the usage comprising both business wireless telephone call usage and personal wireless telephone call usage; attempting to categorize each wireless telephone call based on at least one of a preset phone book entry, time of day, day, and area code and country called associated with a given call instance; and for calls that cannot be categorized based on the at least one of a preset phone book entry, time of day,

Art Unit: 2643

day, and area code and country called associated with a given call instance, applying the defined set of policies to categorize the calls.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile responses should be faxed to:
(703) 872-9306

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:
Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Quoc Tran** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-5643**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Curtis Kuntz**, can be reached on **(703) 305-4708**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Technology Center 2600** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-0377**.

AU 2643

March 11, 2005